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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 21 totaled an estimated 17.2 billion ton-miles, 11.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1984 week included Good Friday, a railroad holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 16 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 275.9 billion ton-miles, 14.4 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 21 totaled 393,932, 10.1 percent above 1983, but 3.8 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 13.4 percent in the East, 7.4 percent in the South and 9.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were up, with coal loadings posting a gain of 23,189 cars (23.7 percent), and grain loadings showing an increase of 2,750 cars (12.2 percent). Eighteen of the 21 groups decreased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 14 totaled 52,917 cars, up 21.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 89,987 trailers and/or containers, 18.6 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of the year was 750,610 cars, 19.8 percent higher than last year, and 1,309,076 trailers and/or containers, up 21.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/21/84:

	Loadings in Week ended April 21, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,231	I	2,750	12.2	D	4,429	17.6
Other farm products	4,351	I	755	21.0	D	84	1.9
Metallic ores	16,756	I	1,064	6.8	D	190	1.1
Coal	120,973	I	23,189	23.7	I	905	0.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,370	I	1,375	13.8	I	402	3.5
Nonmetallic minerals	11,566	I	2	0.0	I	623	5.4
Grain mill products	9,953	D	1,411	12.4	D	552	5.5
Food and kindred products	10,253	D	2,426	19.1	D	947	9.2
Primary forest products	13,989	D	1,463	9.5	D	315	2.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,277	I	36	0.5	D	339	4.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,277	D	633	4.2	D	158	1.1
Chemicals and allied products	24,250	I	1,484	6.5	D	2,118	8.7
Petroleum products	4,538	D	275	5.7	D	602	13.3
Stone, clay and glass products	11,205	I	778	7.5	D	175	1.6
Coke	5,548	I	791	16.6	D	10	0.2
Metals and products	10,422	I	1,500	16.8	D	109	1.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,237	I	547	3.1	D	2,562	14.0
Waste and scrap materials	9,381	I	887	10.4	D	1,157	12.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,896	D	1,982	22.3	D	606	8.8
All other carloads	57,213	I	9,186	19.1	D	3,277	5.7
LCL traffic	246	D	7	2.8	D	24	9.8
Total Cars Loaded	393,932	I	36,147	10.1	D	15,724	3.8
Corresponding week of 1983	357,785						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (16 weeks)	6,252,406	5,514,369	I 13.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
15 weeks ended April 14	258.7	225.7	I 14.6
Week ended April 21	17.2	15.5	I 11.0
16 weeks cumulative	275.9	241.2	I 14.4

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